



3753

[10537/191]

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: DUERMEIER et al.  
Serial No.: 10/023,322  
Filed: December 17, 2001  
For: VENTILATION AND/OR PRESSURE-EQUALIZING SYSTEM  
FOR A FUEL TANK  
Examiner: MICHALSKY, Gerald A.  
Art Unit: 3753

**RECEIVED**

MAY 12 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: May 5, 2003 Reg. No. 22,490

Signature: Richard L. Mayer

*Reg. No. 42,194*

**TRANSMITTAL**

SIR:

Please find a Response to Restriction Requirement transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified patent application.

No fee is believed to be required. However, if any fee is required, please use Deposit Account No. 11-0600. A duplicate of this transmittal letter is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 5, 2003

By:

Richard L. Mayer  
Richard L. Mayer  
Reg. No. 22,490  
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MAY 12 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700 [10537/191]

5-13-03  
#6

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Ewald DUERMEIER et al.  
Serial No. : 10/023,322  
Filing Date : December 17, 2001  
For : VENTILATION AND/OR PRESSURE EQUALIZING  
SYSTEM FOR A FUEL TANK  
Group Art Unit : 3753  
Examiner : Gerald Michalsky  
Confirmation No. : 2274

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Dated:

Signature:

May 5, 2003

Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No. 22,490)

Pr. No. 42,194

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

SIR:

This paper addresses the Office Action dated April 4, 2003 in connection with the above-captioned application.

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that the present application includes claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species 1: the species of Figures 2 to 5; and  
Species 2: the species of Figures 8 and 9.

The Examiner has required Applicants to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits.

Applicants provisionally elect species 1, i.e., the species of Figures 2 to 5, for prosecution on the merits. It is submitted that the following claims correspond to Figures 2 to 5: 1 to 8 and 10 to 12. The Office Action states that at least claim 1 appears generic. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 to 8 and 10 to 12 are generic.

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 5, 2003

By: Richard L. Mayer  
Richard L. Mayer  
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